

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

March 8, 2000

LB 628

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: The amendment is agreed to. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Coordsen would move to amend with AM2566. (Legislative Journal page 836.)

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Coordsen, you're recognized to open on your amendment to the committee amendments.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. This amendment has been referred to, I think, in conversations between Senator Beutler and Senator Brashear. It's to be found on page 836 of the Journal. And what it does is, in the current version of the bill now that we've adopted the amendment, would be strike the language beginning on line 10 with (1), "the actual cost of making the copies available shall not include the cost of salaries of public employees," and replace that with language that specifically states "for photocopies, the actual cost of making the copies available shall not exceed the amount of the reasonably calculated actual cost of the photocopies". This is language out of I think the original version of the bill. This was brought to my attention by one of our Legislative Council custodians of the public record, and I think indicated a problem that exists particularly in entities of government, whether that's at the local level or at the state level, that are not in the business of making copies for the public. The records that they maintain are in fact public records and are available to the public at their request. But many times, particularly with photocopies, the cost of making the photocopy, the greatest portion thereof is in fact the staff time of the public employee, whether that's a secretary of a school who has to sort through teachers records to separate out confidential from public portions of that record, whether it is a county that has a very limited number of people available to do the jobs of that...the normal, every day tasks of that particular office and have to take time off from what they're being paid for to do something that is of benefit to an individual taxpayer. So we could in fact have a situation evolving in which the general public would be paying for items of private benefit for individual citizens. And I think that we need to retain what is actually the current way of doing things and at a reasonable cost. A little anecdotal conversation I had